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Westminster, Jan. 9.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Oldes, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most Gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Zeal and Affection to My Government, and the vigilant Care for the Safety of the Nation, which you have shewn in your respective Counties, have not only fully answered My Expectations, but give Me Assurances that you are met together, resolved to Act with a Spirit becoming a Time of Common Danger, and with such a Vigour as will end in the Confusion of all those who have openly Engaged in this Rebellion, and in the Shame and Reproach of such as by secret and malicious Insinuations have Fomented, or by an avowed Indifference Encouraged this traiterous Enterprize.

It is, I doubt not, a great Satisfaction to you to have observed, That the Powers you intrusted Me with for the Preservation of the Publick Safety, have been employed in the most proper and effectual Manner, and made strictly Subservient to those Purposes only for which you intended them; and you must have had the Pleasure to reflect with Me, That as the Measures taken for Our Defence have been Just and Necessary, so it has pleased the Divine Providence to bless them with a Series of suitable Success: And I cannot but take this Opportunity of doing Justice to the Officers and Soldiers of the Army, whose brave and faithful Discharge of their Duty has Disappointed Our Enemies, and contributed so much to the Safety of the Nation.

I did hope, That the Detecting and Preventing the designed Insurrections in some Parts of the Kingdom, and the Defeating in others those who had taken up Arms against Me, would have put an End to this Rebellion; but it is plain, that Our Enemies, animated by some secret Hopes of Assistance, are still endeavouring to Support this desperate Undertaking, and the Pretender, as I have reason to believe, is now landed in Scotland.

It is however with Pleasure I can acquaint you, That notwithstanding these intestine Commotions, Great Britain has, in some measure, recovered its Influence and Reputation Abroad. The Treaty for Settling the Barrier for the Netherlands is now fully concluded between the Emperor and the States General under my Guaranty. The King of Spain has agreed to a Treaty, by which that valuable Branch of Our Commerce will be delivered from the new Impositions and Hardships to which it was subjected by the late Treaties, and will stand settled for the future on a Foot more advantageous and certain than it ever did in the most flourishing Time of any of My Predecessors; and the Treaty for Renewing all former Alliances between the Crown of Great Britain and the States General is brought very near to its Conclusion.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must rely on your Affection to Me, and your Care and Concern for the Safety of the Nation, to grant Me such Supplies as may enable Me to restore and to secure the Peace of the Kingdom; and I will order Estimates of the necessary Expences to be laid before you.

Among the many unavoidable ill Consequences of this Rebellion, none affects Me more sensibly than that extraordinary Burthen which it has and must create to My faithful Subjects: To ease them as far as lies in My Power, I take this first Opportunity of declaring, That I will freely give up all the Estates that shall become forfeited to the Crown by this Rebellion, to be applied towards defraying the extraordinary Expence incurr'd

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is Matter of the greatest Uneasiness to Me, That the first Years of My Reign, the whole Course of which I wished to have transmitted to Posterity, distinguished by the fair and endearing Marks of Peace and Clemency, should be clouded and overcast with so unnatural a Rebellion; which, however impotent and unsuccessful a due Care may render it, in all other Respects does most sensibly afflict Me, by the Calamities it has brought on many of My faithful Subjects, and by those indispensable Returns of Severity, which their Sufferings and the Publick Safety do most justly call for; under this Concern, My greatest Comfort is, that I cannot reproach My self with having given the least Provocation to that Spirit of Discontent and Calumny that has been let loose against Me, or the least Pretence for kindling the Flame of this Rebellion.

Let those, whose fatal Counsels laid the Foundation of all these Mischiefs, and those whose private Discontents, and Disappointments, disguised under false Pretences, have betrayed great Numbers of deluded People into their own Destruction, answer for the Miseries in which they have involved their Fellow-Subjects: I question not but that, with the Continuance of God's Blessing, who alone is able to form Good out of Evil, and with the cheerful Assistance of My Parliament, We shall in a short Time see this Rebellion end, not only in restoring the Tranquility of My Government, but in procuring a firm and lasting Establishment of that excellent Constitution in Church and State, which it was manifestly designed to subvert: And that this open and flagrant Attempt in Favour of Popery, will abolish all other Distinctions among us, but of such as are zealous Assertors of the Liberties of their Country, the Present Establishment, and the Protestant Religion, and of such as are endeavouring to subject the Nation to the Revenge and Tyranny of a Popish Pretender.

Ratisbon, Jan. 6. Baron Meuhaus Dean of this Chapter, and designed to be the Electoral Minister of Cologne at the Diet, is gone to Munich, and from thence will make a Journey to Bonn before he returns; his Journey is said in part to concern the late Election of Prince Clement of Bavaria, as Coadjutor of this Bishoprick. The Cardinal of Saxe-Zeits had an Interview with his Brother the Duke Regent of that Name, on the 29th past at Raudnitz, an Estate belonging to Prince Lobkowitz in Bohemia. Letters from Vienna of the 28th past, say the Emperour designed on the 1st Instant to make a Promotion of General Officers, and to name those who were to command in Hungary and Transilvania this next Campaign. 'Tis said he would then dispose of the Governments in the Low-Countries.

Brussels, Jan. 13. On the 7th Instant M. Geldermalsen and Gockinga, two Deputies of the States General, arrived here from Antwerp: They were that Night and the next Morning in Conference with Count Kinigsegg the Imperial Minister, in which Conferences they acquainted him, that all the United Provinces having approved the Barrier-Treaty, they daily expected the Ratifications of their High Mightinesses at Antwerp, where they would be ready to exchange them assoon as the Ratifications of the King of Great Britain should arrive. The said Deputies were again on the 9th Instant, in Conference with the Imperial Minister, at which Time they made a further Progress in the Treaty they are upon about the Artillery and Stores of War formerly mentioned, in which there remains no material Difference between them. They are likewise very near agreed on the Regulation for the Lodging of the Dutch Troops in the Barrier-Towns committed to the Guard of their High Mightinesses. The said Deputies returned on the 10th Instant to Antwerp, very well satisfied with the Conduct